

17-562 Ethics Administration

Agency Description

Ethics Administration has only one program, Administration.

Act 64 of the 1996 First Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature, effective January 1, 1997, reformed the basic structure of Ethics Administration by eliminating the Board of Ethics for Elected Officials and the Commission on Ethics for Public Employees and creating an eleven-member Board of Ethics.

The Board of Ethics is statutorily charged with the responsibility of interpreting, administering and enforcing the Code of Governmental Ethics, the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act (CFDA), the Louisiana Elections Integrity Law and the Louisiana Lobbyist Registration and Disclosure Act (LRDA). The Board of Ethics exercises jurisdiction over all state and local elected officials, all non-elected state and local governmental officials, appointees and employees and over any other "person" who engages in statutorily proscribed conduct. The Board of Ethics serves as the Supervisory Committee for the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act (CFDA). The board is charged also with regulating the amount of contributions that may be received by candidates and committees as well as various other campaign finance activities. The board is likewise responsible for the administration of the Ethics Code requirement that governors and gubernatorial candidates and members of the Gaming Control Board file financial disclosure reports. The Board of Ethics is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Elections Integrity Act, which provides for the management of

Act 66 of the 1996 First Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature significantly reformed the procedures for enforcing violations of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act and imposed the requirement for the development of a comprehensive data and information processing program and information distribution network.

The primary statutory responsibility of the Board of Ethics and, therefore, of the Ethics Administration Program (EAP), is to administer and enforce Louisiana's conflicts of interest legislation.

The Board of Ethics is responsible for rendering advisory opinions, reviewing and investigating complaints, conducting public hearing and imposing and enforcing remedial and disciplinary actions as may be necessary under the circumstances and as otherwise permitted by law. The Board of Ethics is statutorily mandated by Section 1158 of the Ethics Code to establish the Board of Ethics Computerized Data Management System. On behalf of the Board, the EAP provides technical support to manage and maintain the Board of Ethics Computerized Data Management System, to facilitate the electronic filing and provide on-line computer access to disclosure reports filed with the Board of Ethics. All disclosure reports filed with the Board of Ethics are scanned by the EAP so that the reports are accessible to the general public via the Internet. Also, the EAP is responsible for providing educational material, information, training and seminars on the laws administered by the Board of Ethics to public servants, candidates, political committees, lobbyists and the general public.

The Board of Ethics is likewise responsible for the administration of Section 1124 of the Code of Governmental Ethics that requires governors and gubernatorial candidates to file financial disclosure reports with the Board of Ethics on forms prescribed by the Board and processed by the EAP staff. Financial disclosure reports are also filed with the Board of Ethics by members of the Louisiana Gaming Control Board and the Supervisor of the Louisiana Gaming Control Board. The EAP has developed electronic filing capabilities and Internet access for the filing of such disclosure reports.

The Board of Ethics is responsible for the interpretation, administration and enforcement of the Lobbyist Registration and Disclosure Act. The EAP is responsible for developing, publishing and distributing reports and disclosure forms, auditing and compliance assurance measure and instituting administrative and judicial remedial and disciplinary actions to redress statutory violations.

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The Board of Ethics is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Elections Integrity Act which provides for the management of complaints with respect to certain Louisiana elections. The EAP provides staff support to the Board as the administrator of the Louisiana Elections Integrity program, conducts investigations and presents evidence to the Board in the discharge of its responsibilities to conduct hearings. The Board of Ethics has statutory jurisdiction over elections in Louisiana for the Office of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Attorney General, Commissioner of Election, Commissioner of Agriculture, Commissioner of Insurance, United States Senator, United States Congressman, Public Service Commission, members of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and Justices of the Supreme Court.

AGENCY BUDGET SUMMARY

	ACTUAL 2000-2001	ACT 12 2001-2002	EXISTING 2001-2002	CONTINUATION 2002-2003	RECOMMENDED 2002-2003	RECOMMENDED OVER/(UNDER) EXISTING
MEANS OF FINANCING:						
STATE GENERAL FUND (Direct)	\$1,147,002	\$1,153,783	\$1,153,783	\$1,186,457	\$1,197,417	\$43,634
STATE GENERAL FUND BY:						
Interagency Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fees & Self-gen. Revenues	55,000	55,000	55,000	65,010	82,764	27,764
Statutory Dedications	0	0	0	9,408	9,408	9,408
Interim Emergency Board	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCING	\$1,202,002	\$1,208,783	\$1,208,783	\$1,260,875	\$1,289,589	\$80,806
EXPENDITURES & REQUEST:						
Administration	\$1,202,002	\$1,208,783	\$1,208,783	\$1,260,875	\$1,289,589	\$80,806
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND REQUEST	\$1,202,002	\$1,208,783	\$1,208,783	\$1,260,875	\$1,289,589	\$80,806
AUTHORIZED FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS: Classified	22	20	20	20	20	0
Unclassified	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	22	20	20	20	20	0